



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Commission on Disability

MEETING MINUTES

April 9, 2012

Setti D. Warren
Mayor

Candace Havens
Director
Planning & Development

Community Development
Senior Planner

Members

Rob Caruso, Co-Chair
Girard Plante, Co-Chair
Jane Brown
Lucie Chansky
Jini Fairley
Rosemary Larking
John Lojek
Barbara Lischinsky

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Members Present:

Jane Brown
Rob Caruso, Co-Chair
Girard Plante, Co-Chair
Jini Fairley
Rosemary Larking (8:00)
Barbara Lischinsky
John Lojek

Staff Present:

Nicole Tocci, Inspectional Services
Alice Walkup, Senior Planner, Community Development
Anne Marie Belrose, Manager, Community Development

Guests:

Sandra Lingley
Hope D Dauwalter
Lee Hatfield
Amy McGregor Radin
Daniel Bradford
Maciej Konieczny
Charlie Shafire

Regrets:

Lucie Chansky

Meeting:

Rob Caruso called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m and introductions were made between COD members, staff & guests present.

1. Minutes:

J. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2012 meeting and J. Lojek seconded the motion.

2. CDBG Report including priority curb cuts:

Alice Walkup begins the discussion with reading the CDBG Access Project Report. The report consists of projects, budget & balance information. An update on City Hall improvements will be given at a later date, after the COD has had a chance to discuss the improvements.

Following up on a comment that was made by a Newtonville business owner who had attended the March 12, 2012 meeting and mentioned that she heard that the City is considering sidewalk expansions in Newtonville and that she thought the COD may want to consider this when choosing the priority curb cut locations. A. Walkup wanted to make the Commission aware that the Engineering Department says no such improvements will be taking place in Newtonville and asked the Commission that in light of this new information if they would like to change any of their priority curb cut locations that were chosen at last month's meeting.

B. Lischinsky asked G. Plante about the Chestnut St intersection that was of interest to him and asked him to describe exactly where he was talking about and she indicated that the carriage road is often used for way of traveling down Commonwealth Ave.

G. Plante explained what he has experienced at that intersection and how he feels it is dangerous to cross and points out that both Chestnut St and Commonwealth Ave. are very busy streets and that's why he feels that it should have a curb cut and be on the priority list.

J. Lojek made a motion to keep with the curb cut locations that were voted on at the March 12, 2012 meeting, J. Brown seconded the motion.

3. HP request for the Parish of St Paul at 1135 Walnut St:

Lee Hatfield a representative of the Parish presented the reason for wanting a HP space in front of the Parish and indicated that it would only being during the service which is held on Sundays only.

Hope Dewalter also from the Parish explained to the COD that she is temporarily handicapped and would like to use the space in front if it became a HP space during the Sunday services.

R. Caruso asked if there is are any HP spaces located on or near the premises. Lee Hatfield said there is parking about two blocks away.

J. Fairley indicated that she thought the closet parking is on Lincoln St and G. Plante agrees that if that is the case that the parking is not ideal.

J. Lojek asked the representatives for the Parish if they have considered having the spot in front be a drop off only parking space instead of a HP space. J. Lojek explained that if it were to be a HP space anyone with a placard could park there and could be there all day or use it not just for the services for the Parish and it would defeat the purpose of having a HP space for people that would be attending the services on Sundays. J. Lojek also asked if the Parish

have gone to the Police Department or any other departments with concerns to the space in question.

R. Caruso asked if it is a possibility for it to be a live drop off and if that is something the Parish would want to look into before the Commission voted on whether to grant the HP space.

Amy Radin a representative for the Parish asked what a live drop off is and what it consists off.

R. Caruso explained that the Commission has granted in the past a live drop of space for a Dr.'s Office in Newton Corner on Harvard St and the sign for the space specified that it was a live drop off only NO PARKING space and concluded that it has worked out perfectly for the Dr.'s Office and thinks this type of space would benefit the Parish.

J. Lojek informed the COD & the representatives of the Parish that he will look into what it would take to bag the meters and have it be a live drop off only space and then will have the Parish be invited back to the Commission and be informed of the information he gathered and let the Parish decide on what type of space they want and then the Commission will vote based on what the Parish decides.

4. Lower Falls Community Center:

Public Buildings presents to the Commission the project at the Lower Falls Community Center and explains that they are looking for a time waiver from the Commission.

J. Lojek helps to summarize the project to the Commission, he explains how Public Buildings received a grant for an energy retrofit and because the cost of the proposed work is greater than 30% of the building the accessibility requirements & fire protection codes were triggered, the increase of the project size will take them longer to finish than originally estimated. The money from the grant for the energy portion of the project has to be spent by the spring or they lose it.

The Community Center will be brought up to compliance in accordance with the State Building Code, Fire protection and the AAB: windows. hardware, doors etc. bathrooms will be brought up to code. A vertical lift from the gym to the class rooms will be installed. Public Building states that the Community Center is heavily used.

R. Caruso says he knows the building well and agrees that it is heavily used.

J. fairley asked if they think they will need any other variances for this project. Public Buildings responded by saying they do not anticipate the need for any other type of relief beside the time waiver.

J. Fairley also inquired about the grading & parking of the Community Center and if that was included in the budget and time reference. The responding answer was that the parking and grading was a separate access project and is already completed.

J. Lojek asks Maciej Konieczny (Public Bldgs) if he understands how the request for a variance works and briefly went over the procedure, once the variance is submitted the COD will revisit the time waiver request and then vote on it.

5. Discussion of Docket # 78-12:

Rob begins the discussion with the HP fines of the surrounding areas; the list was made up of the city/town and there 1st & 2nd fine amounts that are being used.

The discussion proceeds with what to do after someone has already received their 2nd fine and continue to park illegally and if the next step would be to have the car towed.

G. Plante made a suggestion that the violating car receive a boot put on their tire after the continuation of parking where one shouldn't.

J. Lojek remarks that if a boot is put on the tire of a car the car would be sitting in the HP spot until the person clears up there violations and in the meantime occupying the space and stopping someone who could park there legally and who actually needs the use of the space.

J. Lojek thinks \$200, a middle amount is a good amount to start at for all offenses and subsequently an amount that he feels won't teeter the one giving out the tickets from writing one or several tickets as he thinks the progression amount of a ticket would. G. Plante agrees with J. Lojek's assessment.

R. Caruso expressed that when he was originally thinking of a beginning amount \$180 came to mind and that no matter what they decide it still has a few more places to be brought up in front of before a final decision is made, PS & T then finance and then the Board of Alderman.

The consensus of the Commission seems to be that a number between \$150 & \$200, an amount that won't differ too much from the surrounding city/towns is best for Newton. R. Caruso would like everyone on the Commission to try and agree on amount they can live with.

J. Lojek suggested that our amount now of \$25 be put on the list so everyone can see how far off we are from the neighboring city/towns and that it is not only not the minimum legal amount it is also an amount that is insulting.

J. Lojek made a motion to accept the amount of 200 dollars as the HP fine for parking violators, R. Larking seconded the motion, the COD votes unanimously and the motion carries.

6. Other business:

R. Larking wanted to know if there was anything the COD could do to stop the price of the RIDE from doubling.

J. Fairley explained to Rosemary that the Ride is not under penalties of the ADA and that we do not have the right to vote against them.

7. Adjourn:

J. Brown made a motion for the meeting to adjourn and J. Lojek seconded the motion.